however, saw no objection to keeping two forms so very distinct (Fieber refers them to different families) as *Hydrometra stagnorum* and his old *Gerrides* in the same genus and thus entirely ignoring Latreille's more critical acumen, although he was perfectly aware of the fact, as he adds, under *Hydrometra stagnorum*, "*Hydrometra* Latr. Ins." Dr. Fieber quotes *Hydrometra*, "Fab. S. R. Gen. 37," *Gerris* being added as a synonym, which it certainly is not if the "S. R." is to be also quoted for it. In the midst of all this most unnecessary confusion, Dr. Burmeister slips in with a new name (*Limnobates*) for this *Cimex*=*Gerris*=*Hydrometra stagnorum*. If anything like a law of priority is to be retained, *Hydrometra* must be confined to *H. stagnorum*, *Gerris* reverting to its original members; and this may be said for other names besides those mentioned in these remarks, but which, as they do not apply to British species, need not be examined here.

XVI.—*Notes on the Sexes of the* Cocytus *Group of the Genus* Adolias. By A. G. Butler, F.Z.S.

Since writing my remarks upon *Cocytus* and its allies, I have made a rather important discovery as regards the sexes of some of the species of *Adolias*.

Dr. Felder (Wien. ent. Monatschr. v., December 1860) has described the male of Moore's *A. Puseda*; at the end of the description he adds the following observation:—"Auctor hujus speciei fœminam tantum cognovit et propter signaturas in sectionem *A. palungæ*, *pulasaræ* &c. palpis distinctissimam locavit. *A. Cocytus* Fabr. proxima autem ejus affinis est." Moore should, however, have placed the *Cocytus* and *Ambalika* groups together, the former being the males of the latter.

I had previously separated the sexes, both male and female, as being possibly distinct species; and now that I have been enabled to match them, I find that in almost every case we received the opposite sexes together, and from the same collections; a comparison of the underside markings shows similar modifications of pattern in both sexes. The following alterations will therefore have to be made in this genus:—

1. ♂. *Adolias Cocytus*, Fabricius.
   ♀. *Adolias Gopia*? var., Moore.

Siam (Fabr.); Assam. ♂ ♀, B.M.

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in its, for the second time, contracted sense. Except for this what is now with all entomologists a synonym, *Gerris* would disappear with these authors altogether from the European list.

2. ♂. *Adolias Blumei*, Vollenh.
♀. *Adolias* (*ambalika*, var., of Moore).

Borneo, ♂ ♀, B.M.

3. ♀. *Adolias puseda*, Moore.
♂. *Adolias Cocyta*, Fabricius.

Singapore; Penang; East Indies. ♂ ♀, B.M.

The opposite sexes of the following known species may be characterized as follows:—

4. *Adolias ambalika*, Moore.

♂. Alæ supra obscure fuscæ; anticæ paulum falcatæ, maculis obsoletis subvioláceis discoideis a lituris consuetis nigris limitatis; margine externo anali cæruleo, violaceo tincto: posticæ area externa ad cellam fere cærulea, violaceo tincta; apice roseo tincto; margine ipso tenuissime nigro, ciliis niveis.

Alæ subtus ochraceæ: anticæ lineis consuetis discoideis nigris, stria media undata pallide fusca angulari, altera discali obscuriore obliqua sexmaculari: posticæ lineis nullis discoideis; striis duabus discalibus approximatis indistinctis undatis fuscis.

Exp. alar. unc. $2\frac{5}{8}$.

♀. *A. ambalika*, Moore, Trans. Ent. Soc. (1859) p. 74, pl. 5. fig. 3.

Collected by H. Lowe. Borneo. ♂ ♀, B.M.

5. *Adolias Diardi*, Vollenhoven.

♂. Alæ supra fere velut in *A. Blumei* Voll. ♂, sed paulum breviores.

Alæ subtus olivaceo-ochraceæ: anticæ area interna et macula apicali violaceis: posticæ lineis consuetis discoideis, lineis discalibus magis approximatis et velut in fœmina dentatis; aliter velut in *ambalika* ♂.

♀. *A. Diardi*, Vollenhoven, Tijdschrift voor Entomologie (1862), p. 188. n. 8, pl. 10. fig. 2.

Collected by Capt. Brooke. Borneo. ♂ ♀, B.M.

2 *a*. *Adolias Blumei*, Vollenhoven.

♂. *A. Blumei*, Vollenhoven, Tijdschr. voor Ent. (1862), p. 204. n. 30, pl. 12. figs. 3, 4.

♀. Alæ magnæ, supra fuscæ, velut in *ambalika* ♀ fere scriptæ, maculis albis autem fusco nebulosis; disco subanali anticarum et disco medio posticarum velut in *Gopia* ♀ cæruleo tinctis.

Alæ subtus velut in *A. Diardi* fere scriptæ sed multo obscuriores; area externa fusca, maculis posticarum multo magis regularibus, et ad angulum ani violaceo paulum tinctis.

Exp. alar. unc. $3\frac{1}{8}$.

From two different Collections. Borneo. ♂ ♀, B.M.

6. *Adolias cocytina*, Horsfield.

♂. *A. Cocytina*, Horsfield, Zoological Journal (1855), p. 67, pl. 4. figs. 3, 3 *a*.

♀. Alæ supra velut in *A. Gopia* scriptæ; minores, maculis discalibus anticarum albis fusco magis tinctis, posticarum punctiformibus.

Alæ subtus magis ochraceæ, maculis inferioribus discalibus anticarum magis elongatis; serie macularum in posticis magis ad marginem approximantibus; aliter velut in *A. Gopia* ♀.

Purchased of Mr. Stevens. Sumatra. ♂ ♀, B.M.

XVII.—*Observations on Sea-Bears* (Otariadæ), *and especially on the Fur-Seals and Hair-Seals of the Falkland Islands and Southern America.* By Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S., V.P.Z.S., F.L.S. &c.

The Sea-Bears (*Otariadæ*) inhabit the more temperate and colder parts of the southern hemisphere, and the temperate and more northern regions of the Pacific Ocean.

Navigators, from the general external resemblance of the animals, have regarded the Sea-Lion and Sea-Bear of the northern and southern regions as the same animal. Pennant (who paid considerable attention to Seals) and most modern zoologists did the same.

Nilsson, in his excellent Monograph of the Seals, only mentions three species of Eared Seal:—1. *Otaria jubata*, 2. *O. ursina*, and 3. *O. australis*. He believed that the first was common to the Falkland Islands, Chile, Brazil, New Holland, and Kamtschatka, and the second to Magellan's Straits, Patagonia, New Holland, and the Cape. We now know that the species have a very limited geographical distribution.

When I published my 'Catalogue of the Seals in the British Museum,' in 1850, I was satisfied from Steller's description that the species he described from the arctic regions were distinct from those found in the southern seas; and when I at last succeeded in obtaining specimens and skulls from the northern regions of the Pacific, I not only found that my idea was confirmed, but that they did not even belong to the same genera. I had the skulls of these species figured in the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society' for 1859, and thus greatly extended the knowledge of the animals. But there is yet much to be learnt respecting them. We do not know the species of Fur-Seal described by Forster as inhabiting the coast of New Zealand.

As a proof of how little the Eared Seals or Sea-Bears were formerly understood, we have only to refer to Fischer's 'Syn-